

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 15 October 2012

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(SE12/0295) PROGRAM – 2.1: Refugee and Humanitarian Assistance

Senator Cash (written) asked:

Will the No Advantage test be different for different cohorts? For example, an Afghan who makes an application for refugee status at the UNHCR in Pakistan versus an Afghan who makes an application in Malaysia or Indonesia. How will the no advantage principle be applied? If the no advantage test as applied to Malaysia is less than that applied to Pakistan, won't this provide a powerful magnet for asylum seekers to travel to Malaysia?

Answer:

The no advantage principle is relevant to individuals who have travelled irregularly to Australia by sea. The principle means that no person who arrives irregularly in Australia should receive a permanent settlement outcome faster than they would have had they taken the opportunity to seek asylum closer to their country of origin. The time that the person may have taken to receive a permanent outcome closer to their country of origin will depend on regional processing times and the person's individual circumstances.